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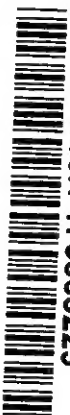
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**Secret
Speech**

Delivered by

Heinrich Himmler

Chief of the German Secret State Police (Gestapo)

To the German Army General Staff

Published by AMERICAN COMMITTEE
FOR ANTI-NAZI LITERATURE

5c.

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Introduction

Fascism, and its blood-brother Nazism, are the enemies of the people. We know this to be a fact despite plebiscites in which the vote is more than 99 percent in favor of the dictator. We know that Fascism is the enemy of the people even if the people really believe as they vote.

We also know that Fascism means war. We already have many proofs: we have seen Reaction, which is another word for Fascism and Nazism, forcing foreign wars in Ethiopia, in China, Austria and Spain.

We also know that the Fascist nations are nations in arms against their own people as well as against their neighbors. One man in Italy out of ten is a spy. The police system of Italy costs ten times what it does in France, a democratic nation of equal population. In Germany the police and spy system is growing year by year. It is a fact that there are more persons employed in police and espionage departments of the reactionary nations than there are persons who are known to belong to the opposition.

The document which follows is the amazing and conclusive proof that the Opposition to Nazism exists, is dangerously strong, and that Nazism is arming not only for a foreign war of conquest but against the German people in time of foreign war. The author is Himmler, not only head of the police, but actually the man next to Hitler. The oath taken by his troops is an oath to Hitler and Himmler. And it is Himmler who informs us of the plans of a special army to be used against the German people.

It is true that what we know to be an important section of the German people Himmler calls "Bolsheviks, interna-

tional Jews, Freemasons and subhumans," but all this red-baiting anti-semitism and name-calling cannot hide the facts he admits.

He admits, in short, that in the next war he is preparing a special army. Hitler will look after the three great fronts: the army front on land, the navy front at sea, the airplane front in the sky. But Himmler will have the most important front: the front against what he calls the "Hinterland," the front against the German people.

Read the document and take heart in the world fight against Reaction, which is Fascism and Nazism.

GEORGE SELDES.

June 1, 1938

Preface

Heinrich Himmler, right hand man of Hitler, second in power to Hitler and Chief of the German Secret State Police, commonly known as the "Gestapo," delivered the following speech at a secret meeting of the German Army General Staff in Berlin last September.

This speech was smuggled out of Germany, and has been published only once before, in the German language, by the Social Democratic "Neue Vorwaerts" in Prague.

This speech gives grudging testimony to the effectiveness and importance of the underground opposition to the Nazis. The American Committee for Anti-Nazi Literature has contributed moral and financial support to this underground movement.

The editors wish to emphasize from the outset that in a fascist totalitarian dictatorship, the underground movement consists of all those who are oppressed by this rule,—which is the majority of the people,—and whose stifled voice can find expression only through so-called illegal underground channels. There is therefore no need for law-abiding citizens of a democracy like the United States to be shocked by the words "underground," or "illegal," if uttered in connection with the German Third Reich.

This document, furthermore, throws a new light on the now superficially patched-up conflict between parts of the General Staff and the Himmler-led fraction of the Nazi Party. Obviously, this speech, antedating the Feb. 4, 1938 dismissals of the 18 generals, shows Himmler making unsuccessful attempts to woo the generals to support him in building a special Nazi-led Police group with power over and above that of the military.

The reader will be astonished by the fact that in a speech before high ranking officers, well acquainted with the real nature of the Nazi system, Himmler sticks to the use of demagogic appeals, (racialism, fake anti-bolshevism, etc.,) which are ordinarily used to mislead the whole German people. Therefore, many things which Himmler finds praiseworthy as example of Nazi "humanitarianism," must be taken with the necessary grain of salt.

The editors wish to state that the awkwardness and confusion in the style of the English translation is due to the German original, the full flavor of which the editors did not want to lose. The illogical twists of the German speech are nothing more than a reflection of the true nature of the warped minds of the Nazi leaders. As a matter of fact, the apparent logical development of the speech is due mainly to the cutting out of many of the distracting historical, technical and theoretical allusions which Himmler makes, and which are not germane to the main thesis. The cuts were necessitated by the limited space of the pamphlet, due to the limited funds of the Committee. (If the publication of the speech is well received, we hope to publish a new edition, incorporating all those bits of Nazi-mania now omitted.)

Phrases in brackets supplying factual information are the editors', except when indicated otherwise.

The footnotes aim to further explain, where necessary, references made by Himmler which might be misleading to the reader.

THE EDITORS.

GENTLEMEN:

I shall first discuss the origin, organization and the scope of the tasks of the SS,¹ then the organization and the tasks of the police, and lastly, the cooperation of the SS with the police and the all important and absolutely vital question of security inside the country.

The SS originated during the early days of the (Nazi) movement in 1923, and was subsequently outlawed and dissolved (by the government of the Republic) under the name of Hitler's Assault Guard on November 9, 1923. (The day of the Munich Beer Cellar Putsch.) Later on, in 1929, about eight years ago, I received orders from Der Fuehrer, to take over the entire Reich leadership of the SS, which numbered at that time about 250 men, and to turn them into an absolutely dependable, elite organization of the Party.

Of course I approached that question as a National Socialist. I wish to dwell at some length on the meaning of this statement. I am ideologically convinced that, in the last analysis and in the long run, only good blood will bring about the highest achievements. Moved by this conviction, I undertook the above mentioned task.

HIMMLER'S IDEOLOGY

Accordingly, it must be true that indeed only the good blood, according to our conception of history, is to be considered as blood, leading, creative, and capable of supporting the State,—particularly in its soldierly aspect,—and that means our Nordic blood.

¹ SS, "Schutzstaffel," Special Guard of the Nazi Party and Government, dressed in black uniforms.

I said to myself: "If I succeed in recruiting from among the German people into one organization the greatest possible number of men with a large percentage containing that desired blood and subject them to soldierly discipline, gradually filling them with the conviction of the value of their blood and the underlying ideology which is derived therefrom, then it should also be possible to actually create a selective organization which could weather any storm."

To begin with, I demanded a certain height. I never accepted anybody below 1/70M (6 ft.) because, I want you to understand, I know that men whose height reaches a certain number of inches, must, somehow or other, have the desired blood. Of course in all these cases one must not go to extremes by saying that men whose height is below that measure cannot have that blood. That is a matter of course. The probability of obtaining the right personnel is, however, greatly increased by seeking among men of this particular height.²

Now comes a further factor. It is not sufficient if I take anybody who is just tall, but even at that time we began to obtain photographs. There were 100 or 150, up to 200 people a year whom we were able to accept. Of all of them, I, personally, have seen their photographs, and I figured: "Is there, in the face of this man, pretty certain indications of foreign blood? That is, too high cheek bones, about whom one commonly says, 'He looks Mongolian or Slavic?' " Slavic, by the way, is only a colloquial expression.

Today,—and this brings me to the conclusion of the question of selection,—we accept the young man at the age of 18. We know him from the Hitler Youth Movement, where he has spent several years, so that we really get only the best man. At the age of 18, he comes to us as an applicant. He has to go through the most rigorous examinations and re-examinations. Out of 100 men, we can use

² Der Fuehrer himself, as well as Himmler, are below six feet.

on the average only 10 or 15, and no more. We demand a certificate of good political character of his parents, brothers and sisters. Today, we further demand his pedigree back to 1750. We naturally demand a health examination and his Hitler-Youth diploma. Furthermore, we demand a certificate of hereditary health to show that there have been no hereditary diseases in the family. As the final and most important prerequisite, we demand that he pass before the Race Commission. This Board of Examiners is composed of SS leaders, race specialists, and doctors . . .

EXPECTS INCREASING OPPOSITION

I now come to the question of the Death's Head Battalions . . . The Death's Head Battalions originated among the guards of the concentration camps. On this point I wish to quote some figures. We still have in Germany today, the following concentration camps; and here I want to add that I don't believe that they are decreasing, but that I am of the opinion that, in certain cases, they will have to increase:

1. Dachau near Munich.

2. Sachsenhausen near Berlin. This is the former Camp Esterwege. The latter I dissolved in accordance with the declarations of the Reich Labor Leader Hierl, and of the Department of Justice, to the effect that it is wrong to tell one man that work in the moor, or fertilization of the soil, is a matter of honor,³ and on the other hand, to send another man there as prisoner with the words, "Listen here, you mug, I am going to teach you manners. I am sending you to the moor." That is indeed illogical, and after six or nine months, I dissolved the Camp Esterwege and transferred it to Sachsenhausen in the neighborhood of Oranienburg.

³ Himmler here refers to the activity of the compulsory Labor Service, in which young Germans are forced to do hard labor without pay.

3. There is a camp in Lichtenburg near Torgau.
4. A camp in Sachsenburg near Chemnitz.
5. And several smaller camps.⁴

There are about 8,000 prisoners under protective arrest. The reasons why we must have that many political prisoners and why we will have an even larger number, I shall explain at once.

HIMMLER'S FEARS

We used to have an efficiently organized KPD.⁵ This KPD was crushed in 1933. One part of the functionaries went abroad. Another part we had caught among the extremely large number of those arrested in 1933. Due to my very exact knowledge of bolshevism, I have always been against the release of these people from the camps. We must be clear about this. The broad masses of the working people are absolutely susceptible to National Socialism and its State, as long as they are not brought under the influence of different ideas coming from those well instructed, accurately prepared and financially well subsidized organizers.⁶ The thing is clear: Anyone who has been a communist for years, is still susceptible to communist propaganda today, even if he has been a communist for reasons of his idealism. There is, however, no danger, as long as there is no propagandist living on his block or in his suburb, supplying him regularly with subversive material. Upon pressure from the Ministry, (of Justice,) we dismissed, in 1933, a great number of political prisoners in Prussia and other states. In Bavaria, however, I, personally, at least, did not yield and did not release my prisoners.⁷ During

⁴ The last Nazi official accounting of political prisoners in prisons, penitentiaries and concentration camps was given as of May 1936, and showed 205,000 men and women thus incarcerated.

⁵ The initials KPD refer to the Communist Party of Germany.

⁶ Himmler contemptuously believes that people cannot become critical of the Nazi regime through their own experiences.

⁷ Himmler was Police Commissioner of Bavaria at the beginning of the Nazi regime.

the years which followed, Bavaria had a much smaller number of disaffected. That is quite natural. If I release the corps of organizers, they will always become active.

OPPOSITION NOT GENTLEMANLY

The results of these releases did not live up to our expectations. We expected that those freed would show appreciation of our liberality and behave like gentlemen, and say to themselves: "That is really decent of this National Socialist State. How easily they might have shot us. We, at least, would have done so had the situation been the reverse. That was decent of them not to have shot us. Now we shall coordinate and be grateful."

Not a chance! Those organizers went, in great part, to Russia, were re-educated and were taught new tactics at the Lenin Institute in Moscow, were schooled how to work underground, learned the technic of building opposition groups in the Labor Front, and how to form People's Front groups.⁸

In 1934, when I took over the Secret Police, I departed from the tactics used by my predecessor Diels, then ministerial advisor: (Undersecretary.) I did not continue to give as much newspaper publicity to the illegal KPD, because I believed that police activity should proceed secretly, no matter how hard it may be for the individuals concerned to get any recognition, because the work is invisible. I consider it to be more correct to do the work quietly, rather than to bring it into the papers.⁹

NAZI PERSECUTION MANIA

Twice during 1936, we arrested the Central Committee

⁸ The Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute in Moscow is a scientific institution concerned with editing and publishing definitive editions of the scientific works of Marxism.

⁹ Himmler wants to demonstrate the importance of himself and his methods to the generals.

of the illegal KPD. You never saw anything about that in the papers. However, the work has been going on very actively. That cannot be denied, because on the other side, —on the side of the Russian Comintern,—there is a lot of money available which is being used here. The GPU,¹⁰ which is the seat of all that propaganda, has a fund of 1.3 billions of gold marks, not a bad fund at all.¹¹

These people and these monies are launched against Europe over and over again. The main centers of that activity are abroad. We are surrounded by countries which permit communist activity and do not interfere and thereby necessarily further that activity.

We are situated in the heart of Europe. That, on one hand, is positively a point in our favor and of immense historical importance, because we also form the heart of mankind. On the other hand, however, this central location is a great weakness in many respects.¹²

FRIENDLY INVITATION

It would be extremely valuable and instructive,—and I have already made this possible for a few gentlemen in the Army,—to pay occasional visits to such a concentration camp. Once you have seen that, you leave with the conviction that none of the inmates have been placed there unjustly. There can be no more convincing proof of the validity of the Laws of Heredity as expounded by Dr. Guett, than such a concentration camp.¹³ You find people there with hydrocephalus, crosseyed and deformed ones,

¹⁰ The GPU, now the Department of the Interior of the Soviet Union, is concerned with the internal affairs of that country.

¹¹ Approximately 400 million dollars,—the heated imagination of Himmler.

¹² This is the thin excuse for Nazi interference and aggression against smaller nations neighboring on Germany.

¹³ Men like Ossietzky, bearer of the Nobel Peace Prize, recently tortured to death by the Nazis; artists, writers, students, professors and others, are in German concentration camps.

half-Jews, and a lot of other cheap trash from a racial point of view. Such are the types lumped together there.

Education generally proceeds by means of discipline, never by instruction in ideology, because the prisoners are, to a large extent, made up of slave souls. Only a few of them are people with real character. These slave souls would simulate everything you demand of them, would repeat like monkeys everything they read in the *Voelkischer Beobachter*, but in reality they would remain what they were before. Consequently, education proceeds by means of discipline.

HIMMLER'S HUMANITARIANISM

That discipline starts with having the people live in clean barracks. To begin with, such a thing could only have been accomplished by us Germans. There is hardly another nation so humane. Laundry is frequently being changed and the people are being taught to wash twice a day and familiarized with the use of a toothbrush, which most of them had never known before. I repeat, you cannot imagine these types without having seen them.

Such is the type of people whom you find in the concentration camps. The chief part of their education proceeds by means of discipline,—exact discipline. It is quite natural that when a man's superior appears, he has to lift his cap and stand still. It goes without saying that the greeting, "Heil Hitler," is forbidden. When the men are marching, it is quite natural for them to sing as soon as they make the first step. It is also understood that no national songs are to be sung, but only folk and wanderers' songs. All these things must proceed in absolutely rigid, soldierly discipline and order.

HIMMLER PITIES PRISON GUARDS

The supervision of the camps is in the hands of the Death's Head Battalions. It is impossible to follow a sugges-

tion previously made, i. e., to take married men for that kind of job, because no state could afford to pay the bill. It is moreover necessary to have a relatively high number of these supervisory troops,—there are at present 3,500 in Germany,—because there is no service as debilitating and as exhausting as the supervision of these bums and criminals.

The better class of criminals is working in the workshops. If one of them is to be released, it is done only after having procured work for him on the outside. Here again, one must be generous. It is senseless to release a man, to send him back into misery and to let him starve. The prisoner's family is being taken care of by the NS relief and other charitable organizations, so that his dependents would not have to starve.¹⁴ Again these are factors which are only possible in Germany. Other nations would not do such a thing.¹⁵

IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS

The camps are encircled by barbed wire,—electrified barbed wire. It is understood that shooting is, in order if a man enters a forbidden zone or steps on a forbidden path. In the moor or anywhere else, if anybody makes the faintest effort to escape,— shooting is in order. If a man is impertinent and disobedient,—and there have been cases at times, at least attempts of that sort have occurred,—he is either put into solitary confinement, a dark cell with bread and water, or,—I beg you not to get frightened, I have followed the Prussian penitentiary laws from 1914 to 1918,— he may get, in the worst case, 25 strokes (with the whip.)

¹⁴ This is a plain lie. The families would starve if the sympathy of the people did not come to the help of these unfortunates.

¹⁵ Himmler's "consideration" is actually based on the fact that no man in present day Germany can leave his job without official permission. It is therefore a simple matter for the Nazis to control the actions of any individual, without incurring the costs of prison maintenance to the State.

Any cruelties, sadistic things, as so frequently reported in the foreign press, are completely out of the question. First of all, that type of punishment can be inflicted only under the supervision of the general inspector of all camps, not even by the camp commander; secondly, the punishment is administered before a commission of guards, so that there is always a train of at least 20 or 24 people present; and finally, there is a doctor, and a secretary to take the minutes of the procedure. One can hardly demand more precision.¹⁶

Here too, I should like to state that these things are necessary, otherwise one could never keep these criminals under control. We are convinced that in the case of war, we shall be compelled to arrest a considerable number of unreliable elements if we do not want to create the soil for highly disagreeable developments.

REBELLION EXPECTED ANY TIME

The supervisory personnel of the camps was at first in the ordinary SS. Gradually, we organized them in the Death's Head Battalions. They are not organized in companies, but in units of 100, and are naturally in possession of machine guns. In each camp, we have at least three turrets which are fortified with heavily loaded machine guns by day and night, in order that any considerable attempt at rebellion,—which can be expected at any time,—could immediately be squelched. At any given time, the entire camp can be covered by the three turrets. These Death's Head Battalions likewise render service during a four-year period. Today they consist mostly of people who have served four years in the Army and have now enlisted for four more years with us. In case of war, these Death's Head Battalions will form the basic units for approximately 30 special Death's Head Divisions of the SS, comprising 25,000 men, with

¹⁶ Himmler brazenly justifies the torture which he, in the same breath, denies is practiced.

whom we shall guarantee the safety in the interior. We shall dwell on that subject later.

This brings me to the question of the Protective Service. This is the great ideological Safety and Intelligence Service of the Party, and, ultimately, of the State itself. In 1931, I separated this Protective Service from the ordinary SS organizations, because I believe that the earlier form of organization was bad. On one hand, secrecy was endangered; on the other, the individual or the units were prone to engage in political discussions of everyday topics.¹⁷ The principle of the SS has been from the beginning: "We are not interested in everyday problems. We trust implicitly all the leaders appointed by our Fuehrer. And every leader recalled by our Fuehrer we remove relentlessly.¹⁸ For the only command that counts is the command of our Fuehrer."

EYES CENTURIES; FEET IN QUICKSAND

Besides that, we are interested only in ideological questions of significance for decades and centuries, so that every man is lifted above mundane problems, and knows that he serves a great task which happens to come up only once in 2000 years. The daily questions of the nature as to whether the local groups are correctly organized, or whether everything is done correctly in the Labor Front, is not of interest to the SS man. Right or wrong, it does not interest him.

We are interested in knowing: What are the broad plans of the Comintern for the coming years,—which country does it expect to tackle next; what bolshevist influences are making themselves felt in freemasonry; what is the run of things there; where are the big emissaries going at present? What organizational plans do they have

¹⁷ The Nazis are always afraid of political discussions and prefer brute force.

¹⁸ A reference to the murders of General Schleicher and Captain Roehm on June 30, 1934, and a forewarning to the generals which materialized Feb. 4, 1938.

for Germany; from what angle do they attack it; how does bolshevism tie up with the Confessional Church, and why does bolshevism, although formerly atheistic, suddenly support these religious leaders,—how is that possible all of a sudden? On the other hand, we want to know: What economic influence do the Jews exert,—again viewed as a general plan,—what is their influence on wrecking, sabotage and speculation? These things are being studied scientifically, and,—here the term fits,—in general staff style.¹⁹ These studies often last for years and are in many respects still in the elementary stage.

PRESENT DAY TROUBLES

I am now going to deal with the police and its composition. The police today is subdivided into the ordinary police,—which is uniformed,—and the Security Service. The Security Service is composed of criminal police and secret state police. In 1933 we took over a wild mess. We can safely say this. A police whose most decent elements were humiliated, where the officer had been deprived of his sabre and the common policeman was given a rubber hose; a police made up of people with penal records and of absolute Marxists. A police which could not dare to tackle any real crime, because immediately the League For Human Rights, the Peace Society and similar organizations interfered and because glorification of crime was the order of the day. Such was the system of planned, spiritual bolshevization.²⁰

On July 17, 1936, I became the Chief of the German Police, including the entire German Police force, together with all its auxiliary organizations. I therefore may be

¹⁹ It is incomprehensible to an ordinary sane person how Himmler, who knows that the generals can see through his demagoguery, tries to educate them with the same balderdash with which the Nazis propagandize the average German person.

²⁰ The German police under the Republic were noted for their efficiency.

permitted to explain to you my approach to my task and how I still see it today.

Very much depends on the Uniformed Police. In case of war, for example, perhaps the entire protection from air attacks depends upon the police. The other organizations are only auxiliary. For such protection, however, I need people who are flexible and who really understand and know something.

I shall soon complete the composition of the police as far as possible from among the discharged men of the Provisional Troops and the Death's Head Battalions. I shall complete the Police Officers Corps from among the SS leaders coming to the police via the two Schools for Leaders at Toelz and Braunschweig, and the Provisional Troops. This brings me to an important question: I am fighting hard in order that the Police Officers Corps should not be considered as an inferior officers' corps. (Inferior to the military.) That happens very easily and has also happened in the past.

THE FOURTH FRONT

In connection with that complicated picture, I want to dwell now on the main question: Safety in the interior and the task of the police during wartime. During wartime, we will have fronts not only of the army on land, of the navy at sea, of the air force in the air, but we shall have a fourth Theater of War Operations,—the hinterland. This hinterland is the basis, the soundness of which must be maintained, by hook or by crook, because otherwise the three other fronts, which will be engaged in actual combat, would again be stabbed in the back.²¹

We must be quite clear on one point, namely, that among our enemies in case of war, will be not only the

²¹ This is a reference to the "Dolchstoß" myth, invented by the generals and used by the Nazis, according to which the World War was lost through treachery.

military enemy, but also the ideological enemy. The enemy I am referring to is, of course, our international enemy: Bolshevism, led by international Jews and freemasons. We can always expect that danger to crop up wherever Jewish bolshevism has been assured of authoritative influence.

Obviously, danger will come from those countries which are either under the leadership or influence of Jews, freemasons, or bolshevists, and are therefore hostile toward Germany.

We therefore put the question in this way: Who, in case of war, would constitute an enemy; who is the ideological enemy,—that is, who is under Jewish freemasonic influence? At the same time, we must be convinced of the following: Bolshevism is the organization of the sub-human. (Untermensch) It is the absolute centralization of Jewish rule; it is the exact opposite of everything which is sacred and dear to an Aryan People.²²

GERMAN SUPERIORITY

The (Jewish-Freemasonic) movement is, in its entirety, directed against White Mankind, and in the main, also against the rejuvenated Germany, for which all hope had already been abandoned in the belief that Germany had been done away with. The most important thing, however, is the fact that our people must be imbued with the deep ideological conviction and recognition of the idea that our people, a minority of 70 millions in the heart of Europe, could maintain itself only because it is of inherently superior quality to the other people.

And that brings me again to what I said in the beginning about the Racial Question. We are more valuable than the others, who exceed us in numbers, and will always exceed us in the future. We are more valuable, because our blood enables us to be more originally inventive than the

²² Himmler continues the old bogey of identification of Jews and Communists.

others, to lead our men more effectively than the others, because it enables us to be better soldiers, better statesmen, to develop a higher culture and to have better characters.

Let us be quite clear on this point: We can stand the test of the coming decades only if we are a people thoroughly imbued with the belief in our superiority, in our own power, and are capable of proving our power.

FORCES IN THE HINTERLAND

I have already talked about the ideological penetration of our entire people in case of war. If this war should break out earlier than anyone of us believes, or even desires; if war breaks out at all, we must be aware of the fact that there will always remain among the German people, a rabble which will furnish the nuclei for the Comintern. We must in all events be equipped to meet that danger, this war in the hinterland, and must at all times be aware of the fact that to neglect this enemy inside the country, would lead to general defeat.

This is the way I see our tasks in case of war: The police would, of course, and that I regard as their duty, be in the position to release part of their men,—at most 15,000 or 20,000, and no more,—for the army as soldiers. I have altogether 80,000 to 90,000 uniformed police. In releasing part of this force to the army at the fronts, we must consider that a great number of the uniformed police is above 45 or at least 40 years old, so that if I release 15,000 to 20,000 men of the remainder, I really give up the cream of this police. I can replace these men through people over 55 or 60 by reactivizing them in an emergency case.

This is possible, however, only if I have special troops for emergency detail which I can use for activities also on a large scale. These are the Death's Head Battalions.

I can, generally speaking, manage matters with this police force of older people. With these 45 year old civil-

ians, who, as per provision, would be called to join the Emergency Police Service, I can solve all those tasks which previously belonged to the "Landsturm," (second reserve) such as supervision of munition factories, of railroad crossings, etc., if and when I have a kernel of young special police. That is provided for by the Death's Head Battalions, composed of men between the ages of 25 to 35, neither older nor younger. I don't want people who are either too young or too old; for the kind of groups who are prone to sabotage and terrorize are mostly composed of young and fiery people possessing highly modern equipment. In that event, these men could not be fought by Landsturm Troops.

STRATEGY OF SUPPRESSION

Therefore, the Death's Head Battalions will be placed in every Administrative District in Germany. The following measures have been taken in that connection:

Firstly, no Brigade is placed in its native District. That is, a Brigade of Pomerania will never be called to serve in Pomerania.

Secondly, every Brigade is to change after three weeks service.

Thirdly, members of the Brigade are never to be sent into the streets singly. No man is ever to display his Death's Head Insignia in public. That is out of the question.

Once these measures are resorted to, they must be carried through relentlessly. There can be no other consideration. Otherwise we would have to reckon with all sorts of eventualities, such as parachute jumps, placement of saboteurs and of daring venturesome groups of 16 or 20 men, who, with the support of a communist fraction, might gain a firm hold in a munitions factory. If these measures are not provided for, we cannot manage the situation with such a small number of men.

One question which looms large in our perspective is

the following: During hard times, only those people who are not occupied are dissatisfied and tend to grumble. If we give every woman and every girl a task, then we can guarantee a smaller amount of grumbling.

WHOM TO TRUST

In conclusion, I should be permitted to say one more thing. I can manage the above mentioned affairs with the officers corps of the ordinary police and the men of the Security Service whom I naturally cannot release in case of war, and with the men and the leaders of the Death's Head Battalions, only if I really have valuable and decent people. That means we have to provide for an arrangement whereby the Provisional Units, which will be at the front, will provide me with a continuous exchange of men who have been wounded at the front or have been there for a considerable time, in exchange for such men and officers from the police or the Death's Head Battalions, as will subsequently take the others' place at the front. Otherwise, I either shall not obtain any reliable characters for these Home Formations and, as a result, will not be able to fulfill the proposed task, or we would become witnesses to the appearance of rebellions as we had during the World War among the personnel of the navy, because they had never been in actual combat.

Such an occurrence must be avoided and for that reason, this circular rotation has been planned in the internal apparatus. Every SS leader of the Provisional Units, —we have approximately 300 who graduate from Toelz and Braunschweig every year,—enters the Security Police for half a year in order to become a reserve officer in that force. I can use these people very well. For example, if one of them is wounded and loses one arm, he can remain at home and perform excellent service.²³

²³ Can Himmler rely upon so few of the German people in case of war that he would have to utilize cripples for want of whole men?

The understanding of this completely new type of organization must penetrate everywhere, and likewise the conception of that front in the hinterland, which will mean the life or death of the German People, if ever we are called upon to give proof of our strength. The positive solution of this question of safety in the interior is the task of the SS and the police. This is the command of Der Fuehrer. We are embarking upon this matter with the utmost seriousness and are well aware of the fact that it is no minor task, and we are further convinced that only the best ideological education and racial selection will enable us to bring this task to a successful conclusion.

ONCE IN 2,000 YEARS

I have given you this short outline in order to show the tasks of the SS and the police. I ask you who are present today, as I have done at the end of every report delivered before the officers of the army: Try to realize the scope of this matter, of this range of ideas which may seem novel at times, and try to create understanding of them wherever possible.

Let us all be clear on one thing: The coming decades will bring not merely some international conflict, which Germany may or may not be able to surmount, but they will bring about the final combat of the previously mentioned subhuman enemy throughout the entire world against Germany as a symbol of the Nordic Race, against the German People as the core of the Germanic Races, and against Germany as the exponent of human culture. The coming decades will decide the life or death of White Mankind, of which we are the vanguard.

But we have the conviction: We are fortunate to live in an era which recurs once in 2,000 years, in which an Adolf Hitler is born, and we have the conviction that we shall surmount all dangers at all times, because we are all cooperating with each other and because everybody is fulfilling his assignment in the spirit of that conviction.

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2. In order to help the heroic opposition movement in Germany which is working in a common front to establish in Germany a true democratic regime. Since this fight, by the very nature of Nazi totalitarianism, can only be an underground fight, this Committee is helping the German underground movement through financial support. The money thus sent is ear-

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